



CLEAN COPY

CLAIMS AND SPECIFICATION

RECEIVED

SEP - 6 2001

TC 1700

6

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

84
SUB
C1

The instant invention relates generally to toothbrushes, and more specifically it relates to an assembly which may contain a combination of appealing qualities to a child and thereby may promote a superior way to achieve desirable habits associated with good oral hygiene.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

BS
There are various advantages in storing a toothbrush in an upright position, and numerous patents have disclosed holders or stands for retaining a toothbrush in a vertical position when placed on a horizontal surface. For instance, U.S. Pat. 5,444,889 (Barre) discloses a toothbrush assembly including a toothbrush and a stand for holding the brush. The stand includes a cup portion having a cavity within, wherein the brush handle can be inserted. A pair of legs separate and unattached to one another support and are connected to the cup portion. Further included is a foot for each leg, each foot being connected to the lower end of the leg opposite the cup portion. The feet are also separate and unattached from one another. U.S. Pat. Des. 369,932 and U.S. Pat. Des. 370,147 (Petronio) discloses a toothbrush holder in the shape of a torso having a front and rear portion. The front portion includes a recess extending therethrough, wherein a brush handle can be inserted. Further included, extending from the front portion, is a pair of feet which are separate and unattached from one another. A tail section extends from the rear portion. While these units may be suitable for the particular purpose to which they address, they would not be suitable for the purposes of the present invention as heretofore described.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

SUB-7
C3
B6

A first object of the present invention is to provide an assembly that will overcome the shortcomings of the prior art devices.

A second object is to provide an assembly, comprising a toothbrush having a first and second end, and a bristle head being positioned on the first side of the first end, and a stand for retaining the brush in a vertical position when the stand is placed on a horizontal surface.

A third object is to provide an assembly, in which the stand is releasably connected to the toothbrush handle.

A forth object is to provide an assembly, in which the stand is a pair of feet which are positioned together to form a continuous bottom supporting surface and a single heel portion, wherein the single heel portion includes a recess for selectively receiving the second end of the toothbrush handle therein.

B6
Cont'd.

A fifth object is to provide an assembly, in which a base is connected to the bottom side of the foot stand for providing additional stability to the foot stand.

A sixth object is to provide an assembly, in which the base includes a recess extending therethrough and in alignment with the recess in the foot stand for additionally receiving the second end of the toothbrush handle therein, for providing additional stability to the foot stand and brush handle.

A seventh object is to provide an assembly, that is simple and easy to use.

An eight object is to provide an assembly, that is economical in cost to manufacture.

FIGURE 1 is a front exploded perspective view of the assembly according to the present invention.

B7

FIGURE 2 is a front exploded perspective view of the assembly according to the present invention showing a base for the stand.

D 2
D 3
B 8

With regard to **FIGURES 1 and 2**, the embodiment of the invention drawn shows an elongated ~~toothbrush~~ handle **1** having a first end **2** a second end **3** and a first and second side. ~~A bristle head 4 is positioned on the first side of first end 2.~~ A stand **5** is in the shape of first and second feet **6a** and **6b**. Each first and second feet **6a** and **6b**, are elongated to define a toe end and together a common heel end. First and second feet **6a** and **6b** are joined together and positioned together to form a continuous bottom supporting surface. The heel end of each first and second feet **6a** and **6b**, is positioned together to form a single heel portion **7**. Single heel portion **7** includes a recess **8** extending through a top side thereof and towards a sole thereof for selectively receiving second end **3** of handle **1** therein, thereby retaining handle **1** in a vertical position when stand **5** is placed on a horizontal surface. First and second feet **6a** and **6b** each include a side surface, the side surfaces intersect one another in a common plane. The toe end of first and second feet **6a** and **6b** are at an acute angle to one another.

If desired, a base 9 could be connected to a bottom side of stand 5 as shown in **FIGURE 2**.

Base 9 may include a recess 10 extending therethrough and in alignment with recess 8 in stand 5 for additionally receiving second end 3 of handle 1 therein, to provide additional stability to handle 1 and stand 5.